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PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE
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MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

September 15, 2005

President George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Bush:

Nine months ago, you signed into the law the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004. This law mandated the establishment of a presidentially-appointed Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board to safeguard the privacy and civil liberties of American citizens.

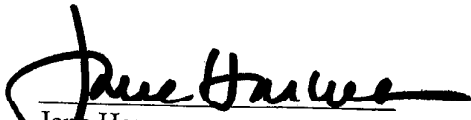
To date, the Board has yet to meet. The nominations of the chair and vice chair, which you announced three months ago, have not been sent to the Senate for confirmation. The Board members have not even been contacted by the White House other than to discuss filling out financial disclosure forms.

This delay sends the unfortunate signal to the American people that protecting privacy and civil liberties is not a high priority for the Administration.

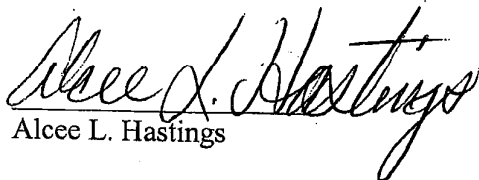
In enacting the post-9/11 reforms, Congress expanded the authorities of law enforcement and intelligence agencies. A Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board is a vital check on these authorities to protect the cherished freedom of the American people.

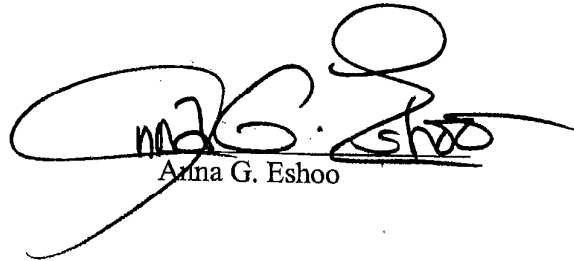
We urge you to make the stand-up of this Board an urgent priority. This Board must begin its important work.

Sincerely,


Jane Harman
Ranking Democrat

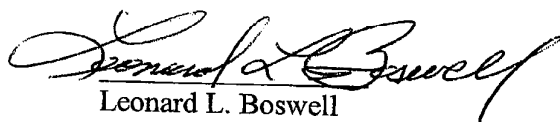

Rush D. Holt

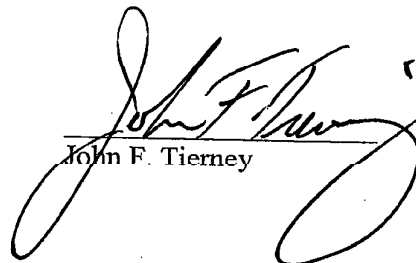

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